



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 62

February Session, 2018

Substitute House Bill No. 5234

House of Representatives, March 28, 2018

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs reported through REP. HENNESSY of the 127th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING MILITARY DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 27-100b of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2018*):

3 (a) As used in this section, (1) "member" means a member of the
4 armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, including the Connecticut
5 National Guard, [who is on active duty and] who is a resident of this
6 state, (2) "department" means the Military Department, (3) "services"
7 includes, but is not limited to, repairs, gardening, transportation,
8 babysitting, tutoring, cooking, office work or any other services that a
9 member, [or] veteran, member's or veteran's family or the department
10 would find helpful, [and (3)] (4) "local organizations" includes not-for-
11 profit organizations that serve members, [and] veterans and [their]
12 members' or veterans' families, and other organizations that seek to
13 [volunteer] provide voluntary services to members, [and their]
14 veterans, members' or veterans' families or the department, (5)
15 "veteran" has the same meaning as provided in subsection (a) of

16 section 27-103, and (6) "volunteer" means any individual who seeks to
17 provide voluntary services to members, veterans, members' or
18 veterans' families or the department.

19 (b) The [family program of the Connecticut National Guard]
20 department shall establish, within its family program, a volunteer
21 service program in which a volunteer service coordinator coordinates
22 with municipalities, [and] local organizations and volunteers
23 throughout the state to provide voluntary services [by volunteers] to
24 members, [and their] veterans, members' or veterans' families [. No
25 person shall volunteer] or the department. Such volunteer service
26 coordinator shall not coordinate the provision of voluntary services for
27 any [services for which] service that requires a license, certificate of
28 registration, permit or other credentials issued by a state agency [is
29 required unless such person] unless the volunteer holds [such] the
30 required license, certificate of registration, permit or other credentials.

31 (c) The volunteer services coordinator shall identify municipalities,
32 [and] local organizations and volunteers that provide [volunteer]
33 voluntary services to members, [and their] veterans or members' or
34 veterans' families in communities throughout the state or to the
35 department and shall [assist such municipalities and local
36 organizations] facilitate the provision of such services.

37 (d) On or before January 31, [2006] 2019, and annually thereafter, the
38 [family program of the Connecticut National Guard] department shall
39 report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
40 cognizance of matters relating to veterans' and military affairs, in
41 accordance with section 11-4a, on the voluntary services [provided by
42 volunteers to members throughout the state, including, but not limited
43 to, the level of services in different geographical areas] received under
44 the volunteer service program by members, veterans, members' or
45 veterans' families or the department during the previous calendar
46 year.

47 Sec. 2. Section 27-100e of the general statutes is repealed and the
48 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2018*):

49 The Military Department, through its family program, [of the
50 Connecticut National Guard] shall publicize to all members of the
51 armed forces, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, including
52 the Connecticut National Guard, and their families the availability
53 throughout the state of therapy support groups for such members and
54 their families. The publicity shall include contact information for
55 referral to support groups in locations that are convenient for such
56 members and their families.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	27-100b
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	27-100e

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(d), "2006" was changed to "[2006] 2019" for accuracy.

VA *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

This bill makes a variety of changes to the volunteer services provided through the Military Department's family program and results in no fiscal impact to the state.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5234*****AN ACT CONCERNING MILITARY DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEERS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill expands several aspects of the Military Department's family program volunteer services.

It expands (1) the duties of the program's volunteer service coordinator; (2) the definition of "volunteer work" to specifically include office work and allow volunteers to provide services to the Military Department; and (3) the list of people who may receive volunteer services under the program to include veterans, in-state service members who are not on active duty, and their families. Under existing law, active duty service members and their families who reside in Connecticut may receive such services.

The bill eliminates the requirement that the Military Department's annual report to the Veterans' Affairs Committee on the voluntary services received through the program include the level of services received in different geographical areas.

By law, a veteran is anyone honorably discharged or released from active service in the U.S. Armed Forces. A service member is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces (U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Air Force and any reserve component of these branches, including the Connecticut National Guard performing duty under Title 32 of the U.S. Code (e.g., certain Homeland Security missions)).

The bill also makes minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018

VOLUNTEER SERVICES COORDINATOR

The bill expands the duties of the volunteer services coordinator. Current law requires the coordinator to coordinate with and identify municipalities and local organizations that provide volunteer services. The bill expands the coordinator's duties to also include coordinating with and identifying volunteers who provide such services.

Under the bill, the coordinator must facilitate volunteer services rather than assist municipalities and local organizations that provide such services as under current law.

The bill prohibits the coordinator from coordinating volunteer services for which a state license, certificate, permit, or other state credential is required unless such volunteer holds the required credential.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/14/2018)